

Regiment in the Army. The matter is being further considered in consultation with the Army Headquarters. The cost of raising the regiment, and other details have still to be computed.

The details of vacancies in various ranks existing at present in the Army are as under :

(a) **Officers** (Arms and services)

General	-	Nil
Lt. General	-	02
Maj General	-	02
Brigadier	-	02
Colonel	-	111
Lt. Colonel	-	79
Major	-	3706
Captain and below	-	8259
Total	-	12161

(b) **Officers**

Army Medical Corps	-	332
Military Nursing Service	-	449
Army Dental Corps	-	44
Total	-	825

(c) The deficiency in respect of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks in the Arms and Services is 58300 Army personnel.

Development of National Highway

2339 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 25 percent of the total goods traffic was being handled by the road transport in the year 1951 in the country;

(b) if so, whether by the year 2000 it is likely to go upto 87%;

(c) if not, the estimate of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether in view of the increasing pressure on roads network there is need to priority to the development of road network; and

(e) if so, the proposed targets for the expansion and development of National Highways alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e). As per National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC), the share of road and rail for freight traffic in the year 1950-51 was 11:89 which changed to 32:68 in 1978. Even though the traffic demand has not been assessed thereafter, the freight traffic on roads has grown up considerably. However, it

has not been possible to adequately widen/expand the network due to resource constraints.

Water Transport Facility through Brahmaputra

2340. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start water transport facility between Guwahati and rest of the country through river Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The river Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri is a National Waterway and is connected to Calcutta/Haldia ports by the transit and trade protocol route through Bangladesh and Sunderbans. The entire waterway route from Guwahati to Haldia/Calcutta is navigable by mechanically propelled vessels throughout the year and cargo vessels are plying between Guwahati and Calcutta region via Bangladesh. This water transport route extends beyond Calcutta along National Waterway No. 1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly) upto Allahabad.

Setting up of Cargo Handling berths, etc. by Foreign Industries

2341. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several foreign industries have shown keen interest to set up specialised cargo handling berths, container terminals and oil jetties.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined those proposals; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Private entrepreneurs including foreign investors have been permitted to participate in private sector participation proposals in the areas indicated in Statement-I. A list of proposals involving foreign investors which stand approved are given in Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Areas thrown open for Private Sector participation in Port Sector

Government has approved clear and transparent guidelines for private sector participation in ports to cover following areas :

- (1) Leasing out existing assets of the Port.
- (2) Construction/creation of additional assets, such as :
 - (a) Construction and operation of container terminals.

- (b) construction and operation of bulk, break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths.
- (c) Warehousing, Container Freight Stations, storage facilities and tank farms.
- (d) Cranage/handling Equipment.
- (e) Setting up of captive power plants.
- (f) Dry docking and ship repair facilities.
- (3) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.
- (4) Pilotage. (Only for Indian Nationals)
- (5) Captive facilities for Port based industries.

STATEMENT-II

List of Approved Private Sector Participation Projects Involving Foreign Investments/Collaborations

Leasing of Existing Berths/Assets of the Port

1. Leasing of berth No. 6 at Kandla Port to M/s. Geepee Corporation Limited, Bangkok for handling bulk and break bulk cargos.
2. Madras Port Trust has entered into a long term berth reservation agreement with M/s. Bengal Tiger Lines, Germany.
3. Bombay Port Trust entered into an agreement with M/s. American President Lines for use of berth No. 1 Indira Dock Complex.

Creation of Dry Dock, Ship Repair Facilities

4. Setting up a floating dry dock and ship repair facilities at Mormugao Port by M/s. Western India Shipyard Limited in technical tie up with M/s. LISNVE, Portugal.
5. Setting up of ship repair facilities at Madras Port by M/s. Chokhani International Ltd. in technical tie-up with M/s. KEPPEL, Singapore.

Creation of Fresh Berths

6. Creation of Off Shore Stockyard & Berth (OSB) off Murmugao Coast by M/s. Sociedade de FOMENTO Industrial Ltd.

[Translation]

Uniform for Nurses

2342. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is tension between the Government and the nurses working in the Government hospitals in Delhi regarding their uniforms;

(b) whether the Government have decided to turn down the demand of the nurses; and

(c) if so, the directives issued by the Government in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The Delhi Nurses Union had unilaterally decided on 2nd November, 1995 to switch over from traditional white colour uniform to camel colour uniform. The Union was repeatedly requested to continue to wear the white uniform because it symbolised purity and professional dignity and nurses all never the world have traditionally worn white uniform. However, an amicable settlement has been reached with the Delhi Nurses Union and Government on the 4th December, 1996.

Assistance for Irrigation Projects

2343. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has requested the Union Government to provide additional Central assistance for irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra vide their letters of 1st August, 1996, 16th October, 1996 and 15th November, 1996 has requested for Central Loan Assistance for on-going irrigation projects of Maharashtra under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for which an amount of Rs. 900 crores has been provided in the Budget of Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1996-97.

(b) The details of the projects proposed by the Government of Maharashtra for Central Loan Assistance are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 20 crores has been approved to the Government of Maharashtra for Gosi Khurd Irrigation Project for the year 1996-97. Release Orders for an amount of Rs. 10 crores being the first instalment of CAA have also been issued.

STATEMENT

Details of Projects proposed by the Government of Maharashtra for Loan Assistance under A.I.B.P.

		(Rs. in Crores Thousand Hectares)	
S.No.	Name of Project	Latest Estimated Cost	Ultimate Irrigation
1	2	3	4
1.	Goshikhurd	1454.10	154.00
2.	Lower Wuna	183.72	25.54